

Lincoln's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League opened this season's campaign when they were the visitors to the Appleby Frodingham Sports complex on Ashby Road in Scunthorpe. Wooden spoonists for the last few seasons hosts Scunthorpe were hoping for a good start but Lincoln had brought a strong team.

On board 4 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against John Mainwaring with the Queen's bishop opening being followed 1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Nf6 3. Nf3 e6 4. e3 Nbd7 5. h3 Bd6 6. Ne5 Ne4 7. Nd2 and both players put their knights in advance positions 7. ...Nxe5 8. dxe5 Bb4 9. c3 Nxd2 10. Qxd2 Be7 but are quickly removed 11. Bd3 c5 12. 0-0 Bd7 13. Qe2 h5 14. Bb5 a6 15. Bxd7+ Qxd7 16. c4 dxc4 17. Qxc4 g5 18. Bh2 Qb5 19. Qe5 0-0-0 and Herman castles queen side and concentrates on the king side pawn advance 20. f4 Qd3 21. Qf3 g4 22. hxg4 hxg4 23. Qf2 and white retreats to f2 rather than 23. Qxg4 Qxe3+ but this has set up an opportunity for Herman (see diagram) - can you see it?

Herman played 23. ...Rxh2 24. Kxh2 Qh7+ 25. Kg1 Rh8 taking control of the open h-file 26. Qg3 Qh5 27. Rad1 Bh4 28. Qh2 Bf2+ and white resigned as the queen is lost. Had white played 27. Qe1 to provide an escape route then 27. ...Qh2+ 28. Kf2 Bh4+ would have followed.

Wins also for Andreas Sivacenko and Ian McDonald plus draws for Murray Smith and David Coates, who has returned to competitive chess after an absence of 4½ years, gave Lincoln a comprehensive 4-1 win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

